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TENBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1950



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Sanitary Inspector

1950

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

<i>Name of Parishes.</i>					<i>Councillors.</i>
BAYTON	...	...	...	...	E. EVANS.
BOCKLETON	...	...	...	...	MISS PRESCOTT.
EASTHAM	...	...	...	...	K. D. BRIGGS.
HANLEY	...	...	...	...	P. KERBY.
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	...	...	...	...	REV. A. P. RANDLE, J. BATLEY.
KYRE	...	...	...	...	REV. J. K. H. THOMAS.
LINDRIDGE	...	...	...	...	COL. E. G. WALLACE, C. H. C. PARTRIDGE.
MAMBLE	...	...	...	...	B. DAVIES.
PENSAX	...	...	...	...	
ROCHFORD	...	...	...	...	W. G. MAUND (<i>Chairman</i>).
STANFORD WIITH ORLETON					H. MORRIS.
STOCKTON	...	...	...	...	CAPT. A. ASTLEY JONES.
STOKE BLISS	...	...	...	...	A. LAWRENCE.
TENBURY	...	...	...	...	J. E. BUFTON, COL. T. C. FILLERY, J. J. FOSTER, H. JONES, W. MIDDLETON.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,	R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B.,, B.Ch., D.P.H.
SURVEYOR, SANITARY INSPECTOR, WATERWORKS ENGINEER,	J. E. PARKINSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

TENBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1950.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,250
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid 1950									5,510
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1950	...	...	...						1,732
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£18,143
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£72/12/0

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District comprises fourteen parishes, and is entirely rural in character, except for the market town of Tenbury. Agriculture, including fruit and hop growing, is the chief industry and provides work for the majority of the adult male population.

A varying number of men are employed at a number of small coal pits on the border of the area.

During the autumn months the population is increased by fruit and hop-pickers, mostly women and children, who are brought into the district and accommodated in special quarters on the farms.

There are many small holdings in the area, and the amount of unemployment varies very little.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

					Males.	Females.	Total. 1950.	Total 1949.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	28	43	71	92
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	7
Total	...	...	...	...	32	46	78	99
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...			14.2	17.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales							15.8	16.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	...	...	...			12.7	18.2

DEATHS

					46	37	83	78
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...			15.1	13.9
Death Rate for England and Wales							11.6	11.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...				0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...				0	0

INFANT MORTALITY under one year of age:

					2	2	4	4
--	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	---

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...						51.3	40.4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...					56.3	32.6
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...			29.8	32

							Total 1950	Total 1949
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	10	...	14	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0	...	0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0	...	0	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	...	0	...	1	

CAUSES OF DEATH

Reference No.							Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...			2	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...				3	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...					1	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms						2	4
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...				6	9
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...			4	2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...				0	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...		7	7
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	...	...	...	...		0	2
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	...					2	0
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...				3	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	...		1	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	...		2	0
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...		0	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	...					4	4
34.	All other Accidents	...	...	...	...		2	1
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	0	1
							46	37

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

In carrying out my duties as Medical Officer of Health of the area I have the assistance and co-operation of Mr. J. E. Parkinson, who has been Sanitary Inspector of the area since May, 1932, and who is also Building Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer for the area.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is the responsibility of the Worcester County Council as "Local Health Authority." The ambulance is stationed at Tenbury.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The County Council Laboratory at Worcester undertakes the examination of food, milk and water. All other bacteriological and pathological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITALS

The Tenbury Hospital is quite close to the town, and though, being on the other side of the river, it is actually in Burford, Salop, it receives cases chiefly from the town and district of Tenbury.

The Hospital has fifteen beds for medical and surgical cases, and one cot, and is very well equipped.

For Infectious Diseases the Worcester Isolation Hospital is used.

The Blakebrook Hospital at Kidderminster is also available, and for Maternity cases accommodation is provided in three Maternity Hospitals.

All hospitals are the responsibility of the Midland Regional Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The nearest hospital dispensaries are Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester.

The Local Health Authority are responsible for prevention and after-care and the administration is undertaken by the Aftercare Subcommittee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Treatment and supervision is arranged at the nearest hospital centre, *i.e.*, Kidderminster General Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also act as Midwives and carry out the duties of Health Visitors.

Two of these Nurses live at Tenbury Hospital, the other two residing in outlying parishes, and their work is so apportioned as to cover the entire area.

The administration of this service is the responsibility of the Local Health Authority.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Regular samples of the supply to the town of Tenbury have been taken and have proved satisfactory on analysis, with the exception of a short period in October during a spell of excessive rainfall when, it is suspected, some surface water gained access to the system. The analyses have proved satisfactory since that time. The quantity is variable and requires to be augmented at times.

The water is not plumbo solvent, but has an aggressive action on zinc and wrought iron, requiring the use of lead or copper piping. (See full report by Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer).

Many of the large number of wells and springs and small private piped supplies have proved unsatisfactory on analysis. The consumers are advised what action to take according to the individual circumstances.

The Council's water scheme prepared under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, remains the subject of negotiation and investigation with the Ministry of Health and other Authorities affected.

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains :

Parish.	No. of houses supplied from Stand-pipe Taps.			No. of houses supplied direct from Mains.		
TENBURY	...	...	Nil	...	...	408
KNIGHTON-ON-TEME	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
LINDRIDGE	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
MAMBLE	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
PENSAX	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
BAYTON	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
STOCKTON	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
STANFORD	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
EASTHAM	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
HANLEY	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
ROCHFORD	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
KYRE	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
STOKE BLISS	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil
BOCKLETON	...	...	Nil	...	...	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

1. Tenbury Town

The conditions described in my last Report remain unchanged. A scheme for the provision of new sewers and outfall works has not yet been received and considered by the Council—a most unsatisfactory position for a town of this size.

2. Rural District

There is little change to report, except that small disposal plants have been installed to serve Council houses at Eastham, Bayton and Kyre.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The only serious pollution known to be occurring is that of the River Teme and Kyre Brook at Tenbury.

SCHOOLS

A limited amount of re-decoration has been undertaken during the year, but no major improvements to sanitary facilities. It is hoped that improvements in these facilities will be undertaken at Bayton and Eastham during next year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the year fourteen houses were completed by the Council (eight at Eastham and six at Bayton). One house was completed by private enterprise. Schemes were in preparation at the end of the year for the construction of six houses at Woodgates Green and four at Newnham Bridge.

There were two hundred and five applications for Council houses in the district on 31st December.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk Supply.
2. Meat and other Foods.
- See Report of Sanitary Inspector.
- No outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred during the year.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NOTIFICATIONS

During the year I have received notifications of the following cases :

	Cases.		Admitted to Hospital.		Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	3	...	Nil	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	18	...	Nil	...	Nil
Measles	8	...	Nil	...	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	Nil
Erysipelas	1	...	Nil	...	Nil

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria in infancy and the need for a reinforcing dose on reaching school age has been explained to parents. Immunisation is carried out at each session in the Welfare Centre and during my visits to the schools.

The campaign received a serious setback during the year owing to the suspension of immunisation while infantile paralysis was prevalent. This decision was taken following an apparent connection between an injury to muscles, including all forms of inoculation, and subsequent paralysis of the same muscle in a subject incubating the disease. The publicity given to this in the daily press was unfortunate and misleading, with harmful results in the minds of the parents.

Number of children under 5 who received Primary Courses	34
Number of children over 5 who received Primary Courses	12
Number of children who received Reinforcing doses	80

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Three cases were notified during the year (two in 1949).

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...		...		...		...	
1	...		...		...		...	
5	...		...		...		...	
10	...	1	...		...		...	
15	...		...		..		...	1
25	...	1	...		...	1	1	...
35	...	1	...		...		...	
45	...		...		...		...	
55	...		...		...		...	
65	...		...		...		...	
	2	1			1	1	1	

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

There were in the register at the end of the year the following cases of Tuberculosis :—

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
M.		F.	M.		F.
13	...	10	6	...	8

CONCLUSION

The Council have made a little progress with their housing schemes, but the situation in the district as a whole remains serious. It is to be hoped that more houses can be constructed in the near future and that no obstacle will be allowed to prevent this occurring.

The provision of an adequate system of sewers and outfall works in the town of Tenbury should not be further delayed.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council and staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Tenbury Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my Report for the year 1950.

WATER

The town of Tenbury is supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of this supply is situated at Clee Hill, the water being drawn from the Millstone Grit formations there.

A connection between the Birmingham Water Conduit from Elan Valley and the Tenbury intake chamber gives a supplementary supply. The effects of increase or decrease in the rate of intake from Tenbury's source can be rectified by the turn of a valve on the supplementary supply connection.

In the rural parts of the district, where there is not a sizeable village, the mode of supply generally is by wells and springs. There are, however, a few small private piped supplies.

TENBURY WATERWORKS

At the beginning of the year the yield at the source began to increase and throughout the year it was not necessary to use any water from the Birmingham Supply Conduit.

MAINS IMPROVEMENTS

Water Main, Teme Bridge, Tenbury

The scheme which I prepared in 1949 was carried into effect during the summer of this year. A new 6 in. water main was laid on brackets over Teme Bridge to replace the old existing portion of 5 in. main which lies on the bed of the river.

Gravity Main—Parish of Nash

During the Autumn the work of diverting a portion of the gravity main between the source and the reservoir was commenced. The work consists of laying approximately one mile of 6 in. pipes on a contour about 100 feet lower than a portion of the existing gravity main.

TENBURY TOWN WATER—ANALYSES

Copies of analyses of two samples taken in the year are as follows :—

Sample of Town Water—18th April, 1950.

Physical Characters	...	...	Clear.	
Odour	...	...	None.	
Deposit	...	...	None.	pH 7.0.

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (Dried at 180° C)	...	...	...	10
Solids in Solution . After Ignition	...	...	...	8
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.6
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	1
„ Temporary	...	...	...	6
„ Total	...	...	...	7
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	None
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.13
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	None
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37° C	...	...	...	1 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	...	...	4 per one ml.
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

The sample is fit for drinking.

Sample of Town Water—10th October, 1950.

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Clear.
Odour	...	...	...	None.
Deposit	...	...	...	None.
				pH 6.9

Chemical Examination (Results expressed in parts per 100,000).

Solids in Suspension (Dried at 100° C)	...	...	...	None
Solids in Solution (dried at 180° C)	...	...	...	13
Solids in Solution. After Ignition	...	...	...	10
Chlorides calculated as Common Salt	...	...	...	2.3
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	2
„ Temporary	...	...	...	6
„ Total	...	...	...	8
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0016
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	...	...	...	0.1
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	...	...	...	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	Nil
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected

NOTE.—To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7.

Bacteriological Examination

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar

(a) In two days at 37° C	...	...	...	...	1 per one ml.
(b) In three days at 22° C	...	...	...	...	6 per one ml.
Coli-aerogenes (Presumptive Coli) Count	...	...	...	...	Nil per 100 ml.

The sample is fit for drinking.

WATER—OTHER SUPPLIES

A scheme which I prepared in 1949 for providing a piped supply to the six Council Houses at Kyre was carried out early this year. The supply is from a spring belonging to the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, which will also be the source of supply to a proposed hospital at Kyre.

Thirty-four samples of water from wells and springs were taken for examination during the year. A number were found to be defective in quality and in these cases appropriate action was taken.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the closet accommodation at ten Council Houses (four at Eastham and six at Kyre) was converted to the water carriage system. There were several conversions at other private properties, some of which were grant-aided.

The conversion to the water carriage system of a large number of pail closets in the township of Tenbury is long overdue. In this connection pails have to be collected from houses in the streets of Tenbury on three mornings each week. Apart from the many other objectionable and insanitary aspects, it becomes increasingly difficult to find labour for this unpleasant job and at present the absence of one man from this work can give rise to a very awkward situation.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

In Tenbury town, collections of refuse are made at least once weekly and in the rural parishes once every three weeks. The scheme works fairly satisfactorily, but in such rich, valuable agricultural country as Tenbury Rural District, sites for tips are difficult to find. There is at present only one tip, situated at Kyrewood, Tenbury, and it is fortunate that the tip is of such capacity that it will last for some years.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

VERMINOUS AND DIRTY PREMISES

Four cases were dealt with under this heading.

During the year several fly and flea infestations were dealt with in the district. Good results were obtained by spraying with wettable D.D.T. and dusting with dry D.D.T.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the Council were without the services of a Rodent Operative and as a result work under this heading was limited.

Number of Infestations dealt with at private houses	...	...	...	9
Number of Infestations dealt with at business premises	...	...	...	5
Number of other Infestations dealt with	...	...	...	12

INNS AND REFRESHMENT HOUSES. Sanitary Accommodation

Inspections were made of the sanitary accommodation provided at Refreshment Houses, Inns and other Public Houses in the district.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular inspections were made at the few factories in the district and several minor defects were dealt with.

PARTICULARS OF OTHER SANITARY MATTERS DEALT WITH

House Drainage, etc. (Excluding New Houses)

New Drainage Provided :

(a) To sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(b) To Cesspool	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number, trapped, ventilated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Number of additional W.C.'s installed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defects to sewer remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances arising from dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits in connection with Tenbury Waterworks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	674
Visits in connection with new housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Other visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
Letters written during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	910

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(ii) By the County Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	233
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	310
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932	...	...	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	48
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			3
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	29

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 79

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 11

(b) By Local Authority Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts (Housing only) :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Not known

(b) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil

FOOD

During the year action in the Courts was taken against a potato crisp manufacturer for contraventions of Section 13, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Whilst evidence was being given for the prosecution, it was discovered that the Magistrates' Clerk had wrongly drafted the Summons and the case was stopped.

MILK

During the year one milk distributor acquired almost all the milk rounds in Tenbury and by the end of the year had made alterations to his dairy with a view to establishing a pasteurising depot.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Since early in the war, meat has been supplied to the district from a central abattoir at Kidderminster. During the intervening years the six private slaughter houses in the district have been used for emergency slaughter only.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

It was necessary to deal with only twelve pounds of unfit foodstuffs during the year.

HOUSING—COUNCIL HOUSES

Fourteen new houses were completed and occupied during the year; eight in the parish of Eastham and six at Bayton.

Schemes have been prepared for four houses at Newnham Bridge and six at Woodgates Green, Knighton-on-Teme. Erection will commence at Woodgates Green early in 1951.

At the end of the year the Council had 164 occupied houses in their district.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947

The work in connection with the above is carried out by my Department.

During the year 44 applications to develop were dealt with. Thirty-seven applications were approved and four refused. In no case was there an Appeal to the Minister of Town and Country Planning.

PLANS APPROVED (Under Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 and Building Byelaws)

New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Alterations and Improvements to Housing Accommodation	...								22
Plans other than Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING (Defence Regulation 56a)

In consequence of a continued relaxation in the control of civil building operations, the work in my department under this heading has not been so heavy as in previous years.

Twenty-five Licences were issued covering works to the value of £16,353.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION—1950

During the 1950 season, there were 18 hop growers in the district and accommodation was provided for pickers at 20 camps.

Two circular letters were sent to growers during August calling attention to the most important points in connection with the housing of hop-pickers and giving a résumé of the byelaws in force in the district.

Before pickers arrived inspections were made by Dr. Markham, Medical Officer of Health, and myself, and a visit to the hop fields was made by Major Gen. W. R. Dimond, a Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

The season was a very wet one and in the opinion of some veteran pickers, the worst they had experienced.

During the season, frequent systematic inspections of pickers' quarters were carried out and as and when defects were found the growers' attention was called to them.

Again there was that all too common defect—dirty closets. The dirty and sometimes disgusting conditions brought about by the frequent fouling of closet seats and floors by pickers cannot be accepted as accidental or inevitable. One finds difficulty in continually placing the onus of responsibility upon growers for these conditions, for as yet, the persistent unclean habits and unintelligent use by some pickers are difficult to stop or control. However, this position does not release the growers from their obligation under the byelaws to maintain closet accommodation in a clean and inoffensive condition.

Almost similar remarks may be made with regard to the maintenance of surroundings generally and to scavenging and disposal of refuse. In this connection I have very often advised the provision of proper sanitary dustbins, such as the picker is accustomed to using at his home and which he will recognise and be more likely to use. Some of the improvised refuse receptacles provided by some growers, though sufficient if used properly, are I believe regarded by pickers as rubbish in themselves!

At the large farms this year camp supervisors had a difficult task and scavenging on the churned up grounds, at times, presented a problem.

Hop-picking byelaws operate only against the persons who provide the accommodation, usually the growers. There are often times when I feel that, on some few matters, they might more justly operate against the pickers.

Although the byelaws lay down certain standards and appear to cover almost the whole range of matters and subjects to which regard must be had for the temporary housing and welfare of persons, they have not produced, at all camps, that agreeable picture of solid orderliness and system which I have looked for.

The best results cannot be obtained without the co-operation of the pickers themselves. Although much effort has been made to persuade the pickers to appreciate and accept their responsibilities, I regret to have to say that a proportionate degree of result has not been obtained.

If an intelligent and voluntary co-operation in every way by pickers continues to be slow in coming, kindly persuasion will not cease, but I feel that the effort will, before long, be overtaken by the machine.

In this connection I would mention that the first hop-picking machine in the Tenbury Rural District was seen working at the Newnham Farms and I understand that machines will be in use at other farms in the district in 1951.

There was no outbreak of infectious disease among pickers and no serious illness, apart from a case of Poliomyelitis, which was admitted to hospital at Hayley Green.

The 1950 season dragged on wearily through continuous bad weather and it was almost the middle of October before the last of the pickers were clear of the district.

I have already made some reference to the byelaws in force in the district, but I wish to express my opinion that a byelaw should be added under the heading "Fire Precautions." Among other things the byelaw should provide that the use of naked lights, particularly on floors above the ground level, should be strictly prohibited and provision made for doors opening outwards where deemed necessary.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman, Members of the Council, fellow Officers and Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PARKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer.

